Delivery of Letters by Private Couriers

2381. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit private couriers to accept and deliver letters;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor;

(c) whether any deficiencies in the postal service have been identified; and

(d) if so the steps taken/proposed to remove these deficiencies before permitting private couriers to accept and deliver letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. There is no decision yet to permit private couriers to accept and deliver mail.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No Sir. No particular deficiency in the system has been identified. However, sometimes shortcomings in operations are noticed.

(d) Shortcomings are mainly of delays in processing of mail and they are overcome by appropriate intervention.

Modernisation of Post Offices in Almora District

2382. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the staff strength of Ranikhet, Bhikiyasain, Basot, Taya and Seen post offices in Almora District of U.P.;

(b) whether it is a fact that post offices in the Almora district have not been developed and modernised so far;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps are being taken to modernise them and also the telegraph facility which is not available so far; and

(e) what are the details of investments in these post offices as on date, post office-wise, alongwith the details of dead accounts in each post office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Details of staff strength of Ranikhet, Bhikiyasain, Basot, Taya and Seen Post Offices in Almora district of U.P. are given in Statement 'A' (*see* below).

(b) to (d) No Post office has been included in the specific scheme for modernisation of selected POs initiated in the current year as the programme is being implemented in phases, giving priority to the Post Offices with heavier traffic in view of the limited resources available. However, keeping in view the need to improve the quality of services in all important POs, 10 POs in each postal division, including Almora Postal Division, are being covered under a programme for improvement of services through focussed management. In addition, such offices are also being covered in the regular programme for supply of better weighing machines, franking machines and office equipment.

(e) Details of investment in the respective POs are given in Statement 'B'.

Statement 'A'

List showing staff strength of each P.O.

		Ranikhet	HPO
1	Postmaster	—	1
2.	Postal Asstt. including Accountant	—	28
3.	Asstt. Postmasters including PRI	—	3
4.	Postmen	—	10
5.	Group 'D'	—	10
6.	E.D.As	—	6
7.	SBCO Supervisor	—	1
8.	SBCO PAs	—	5